

## **REMARKS**

A number of informalities have been corrected.

Claims 1, 7, and 19 have been amended to more clearly define the invention by requiring that neither the main link nor auxiliary channel have a separate clock signal lines. Support for this particular limitations can be found at paragraphs [0045] and [0047].

The Examiner rejected number of claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application 2007/0140298A1 to ENG in view of Wolf et al (U.S. Patent 6,914,637 B1). The Wolf reference describes a communications system that includes a transmitter, a receiver, and a serial (TDMS) link. In particular, the receiver 2' of Fig. 2 is an element of a sink device that also includes EDID ROM 23, microcontroller 25, display circuitry 26, and audio digital-to-analog converter 27. EDID ROM 23 is coupled to the DDC channel of the TMDS link and stored status and configuration bits which can be read by microcontroller 15 over the DDC channel. (see column 12, lines 47 - 53) Therefore, the TMDS link described in Wolf is, in fact, bi-directional since the DDC channel (which is part of the TMDS link) must provide a means by which the microcontroller 15 reads the configuration bits stored in the EDID ROM 23. (Also note that in Fig. 2, the TDMS link is clearly shown to be bi-directional in nature).

More specifically, claim 1 provides for a uni-directional main link and a bi-directional auxiliary channel that are separate from each other (since one is specifically uni-directional in nature and the other is specifically bi-directional in nature). As pending, claim 1 recites,

A method of minimizing buffer requirements in a packet based multimedia system having a multimedia source device coupled to a multimedia display device by way of a bi-directional auxiliary channel arranged to transfer information between the display device and a source device and vice versa and a unidirectional main link arranged to carry multimedia data packets from the multimedia source device to the multimedia display device, a method of reducing multimedia packet overhead, comprising:

prior to commencement of transmission of the data packets from the source device to the display device over the main link, communicating via the auxiliary channel data packet attributes to the display device;

forming a reduced size data packet header for each of the data packets wherein the reduced size is commensurate with the data packet attributes already communicated via the auxiliary channel and therefore reduces buffer requirements;

associating the reduced size data packet headers with the data packets;

transmitting the data packets and associated reduced size data packet headers from the source device to the display device over the main link; and

interspersing special characters that allow the display device to distinguish each bit of pixel data included in the data packets thereby requiring only a small FIFO type buffer unit *and the main link to maintain synchronization such that neither the main link nor the auxiliary channel include a clock line.*

Therefore, the Applicants believe that claim 1 as currently pending is neither suggested nor rendered obvious by either ENG or Wolf taken separately or in any combination thereof.

Therefore, the Applicants believe that all remaining claims are also allowable over the cited art.

Therefore, the Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable. Should the Examiner believe that a further telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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